

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 USIA-06 USSS-00 OPR-02 A-01 /066 W

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R 111423Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4457

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORISTS ASSASSINATE LANUSSE'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW;
MAKE ATTEMPT ON GENERAL VILAS'S LIFE

1. MARIA CARIDE DE LANUSSE, 26-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF FORMER ARGENTINE PRESIDENT GENERAL LANUSSE, WAS KILLED YESTERDAY WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED CONTAINED IN A PACKAGE THAT HAD BEEN PLACED BY HER FRONT DOOR. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE MRS. LANUSSE HAS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS. NO ORGANIZATION HAS YET TAKEN CREDIT FOR HER ASSASSINATION.

2. IT WAS ALSO REVEALED YESTERDAY THAT AN ARMY CONSCRIPT, MIGUEL ROMERO, REPORTEDLY A MONTONERO MEMBER, HAD ATTEMPTED TO KILL GENERAL ACDEL VILAS. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS, THE CONSCRIPT HAD SERVED AS AN ORDERLY TO GENERAL VILAS AND HAD PLACED A "POWERFUL POISON" IN A BEVERAGE HE WAS SERVING HIM. WHEN RUMORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE YESTERDAY THAT GENERAL VILAS HAD BEEN KILLED, ARMY SOURCES ADMITTED THAT HE HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF A POISONING ATTEMPT BUT THAT IT HAD FAILED AND THAT VILAS WAS ALIVE AND WELL.

3. COMMENT: FACT THAT MONTONEROS WOULD WISH TO KILL GENERAL VILAS, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS THE COMMANDER IN TUCUMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT PROVINCE'S ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN, NOT SURPRISING.

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HOWEVER, DEATH OF MRS. LANUSSE APPEARS TO BE YET ANOTHER OF

THE BRUTAL AND SENSELESS KILLINGS WHICH HAVE BECOME ALL TOO
COMMONPLACE IN ARGENTINA.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, MILITARY PERSONNEL, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS00933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-1117
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760261/aaaacbem.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORISTS ASSASSINATE LANUSSE'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW; MAKE ATTEMPT ON GENERAL VILAS'S LIFE
TAGS: PINS, AR, (CARIDE DE LANUSSE, MARIA), (VILAS, ACDEL), (ROMERO, MIGUEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006